

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ira Schultz on 11/24/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

- In claim 26, line 2, delete "parameters" and insert --parameter--.
- In claim 28, line 3, delete "as".
- Replace the abstract with:

--A procedure for squeezing off and sealing a tube, in which the tube is positioned between a sonotrode and an associated anvil, counter electrode, of an ultrasonic device, and the sonotrode is activated and displaced relative to the counter electrode for squeezing off and sealing the tube. In order to enable automatic squeezing off and sealing of a tube without individually entering the data of the tube into an ultrasonic welding device in advance, the invention proposes positioning the tube and fixing it between the sonotrode and the counter electrode, retrieving stored welding parameters on the basis of the characteristic variable and activating the sonotrode and moving the sonotrode and counter electrode in relation towards each other for consolidating and sealing the tube.—

2. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: in figure 1 the control unit should be labeled as "13". In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record neither teaches or suggests a procedure of squeezing off and sealing a metal tube by placing the tube between the sonotrode and counter electrode of an ultrasonic welding device and performing the squeezing off and sealing by determining a characteristic variable of the tube while being fixed in the welding device and retrieving welding parameters on the basis of the characteristic variable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CARLOS GAMINO whose telephone number is (571) 270-5826. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 9:30am-7:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jessica L. Ward can be reached on (571) 272-1223. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CG

/Kiley Stoner/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1793